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HOPEH, SHANTUNG, KIANGSU TAKE STEPS
TO ALLEVIATE FAMINE CONDITIONS

· PURSUES ANTIFAMINE CAMPAIGN IN SHANTUNG -- Wen-hui Pao, 3 Feb 50

Chi-nan, 1 January (Hsin-hua) -- The Production and Relief Committee of the Shantung Province People's government is taking positive steps to combat the famine in Shantung Province. Last year, the province suffered unprecedented calamities when it was ravaged with drought, invasion of insects, hailstorms, and flood. The flood was extremely severe, having inundated some 181,819 acres of arable land in about 115 hsien.

The antifamine campaign includes: sowing of fast-growing wheat and vegetables, gathering and drying of vegetables, production of other than agricultural goods by the calamity-stricken people, and donations of grain and provisions from the nonaffected people.

In the latter part of last autumn, about 651,515 acres were sown with wheat; 7,228 afflicted people in Hai-pin Hsien, P'o-hai Special District, gathered and dried 10,000 piculs of wild rice; and the people in the south-central district of Shantung dried 77 million catties of vegetables.

Since the calamities, some 20,000 afflicted people in the province were paid with 780,000 catties of grain for ginning cotton, extracting oil, and other such subsidiary occupations. Several tens of thousands in Ts'ang-nan Special District are participating in the production of nitrates, flour, hair nets, straw raincoats, baskets, and woolen yarns. In Tung-p'ing Hsien, the calamity-stricken people are sustaining themselves by fishing. Others are earning a living by repairing dikes, transporting coal and railway equipment, and gathering fruits and berries in the mountains.

Most of the goods produced by these people are bought by cooperatives or trading companies. Others are sold by the local governmental authorities. The people's governments, of all levels, have also promised to sell everything produced in the next half year.

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Donations of grain and provisions by the nonaffected people are helping considerably in alleviating the famine. Some people are saving one ounce of rice each month ~~/sic/~~ to help the people in famine areas. The south-central district of Shantung, for example, has already received 70,000 catties of grain from such donations alone.

INCREASES LIVESTOCK IN CALAMITY AREAS -- Wen-hui Pao, 3 Feb 50

The Shantung Province People's government established 85 animal-breeding stations in 1949. Some 600 male breeding stock were purchased and placed in the stations to which the farmers brought their stock to be bred. The agricultural animal population in Shantung was thus increased to about 3,900,000, which is 60 percent of the 1933 - 1936 average.

HOPEH TAKES ANTIFAMINE MEASURES -- Wen-hui Pao, 3 Feb 50

Pei-p'ing, 1 February (Hsin-hua) -- To forestall the impending famine in the calamity-stricken areas in Hopch, the Hopeh Province People's government sowed about 192,880 acres with wheat last autumn and plans to sow about 116,670 acres with spring wheat, barley, and peas this coming spring.

COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES SAY EAT GRASS -- Hsin-sheng Wan-pao, 31 Jan 50

According to a dispatch from northern Kiangsu Province, the local Communist authorities have issued directives to the calamity-stricken populace to raise grass for food. Besides listing various species of edible grasses, the Communist authorities have warned the people that they may be forced to eat grass if famine comes to this area.

START AUSTERITY PROGRAM IN NORTHERN KIANGSU -- Wen-hui Pao, 21 Jan 50

Shang-hai, 20 January (Hsin-hua) -- More than 20,000 people in northern Kiangsu are now participating in the production and austerity program which was launched by the local authorities in August 1949. The austerity program will make possible the saving of more than 40 million catties of provisions in a one-year period and will help feed afflicted people in calamity-stricken areas. The production of vegetables is also being carried out in earnest. In Yen-ch'eng and Huai-yin districts, 640,000 catties of vegetables were grown in 3 months.

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